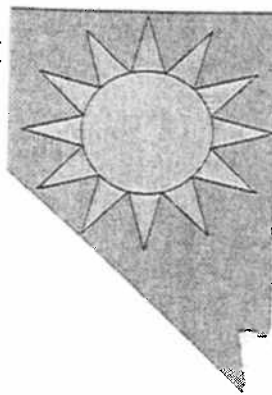


John W. James, State Climatologist
University of Nevada, Reno
322 Mackay Science Hall/154
Reno, Nevada 89557-0118



Telephone (775) 784-1723
E-mail nclimate@scs.unr.edu
Fax (775) 784-1058

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STATE PUBLICATIONS

NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

August 2001

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During the past three years Western Nevada has logged record heat and dryness. For example, thirty of those months averaged above normal with seven of them 5 or more degrees warmer than usual, with May 2001 a whopping 10+ degrees and August 2001 6½ degrees warmer than usual. With May and August 2001 number one on the heat register, March was second warmest, June was the fifth and July 2001 was the eighth warmest in the 114 year-long record. Unfortunately, long range outlooks continue this pattern through Fall 2001 for most all of Nevada. However, we have had cool Augusts with for example, the mercury falling to 24° at Reno on August 29, 1962. With only one more month in Water Year 2000-01 the dye is cast for drought conditions for all but the East and the South. The Northern third of the State will end up in a serious drought with unprecedented heat and dry conditions. Some locations in the West have had less than 30% of normal Water Year precipitation. Next month's Climate Summary will have complete coverage of the 2000-01 Water Year.

Temperatures managed to climb into 115-120° range, but were not quite records. (Overton logged 117°). On the cool side, several sites in the Northeast dropped to near freezing, with Boies Ranch and Reese River at 33° and Wildhorse Reservoir 31°.

There were a few, very few, wet spots this month with Mt. Charleston logging 2.13", 1.48" at Geyser Ranch, 1.46" at Spring Valley State Park, 1.44" at Great Basin National Park and 1.11" at Pioche.

Evaporation pan water losses have remained at or near record levels this growing season, with for example 9.30" at Fallon, 10.86" at Honey Lake Fish & Game and Amargosa Valley Garey Ranch 11.50".

NOTE 1: What has been the largest diurnal range for temperature in Nevada?

The record is 75° at Deeth on September 21, 1954 when the morning low rose from 12° to an afternoon high of 87°. At Charleston there was a 74 degree difference on September 19, 1962 when the AM low of 11° rose to the afternoon high of 85°. Most recently on October the 7th of 1997, San Jacinto Ranch logged a morning low of 16° warming to 86° in the afternoon.

NOTE 2: Our hearts are heavy with grief to learn of the unexpected death of Steven Otteson August 30th, 2001 in Eureka California from complications of diabetes. He was born in Reno Nevada on March 2, 1976, the son of Mrs. Karin Otteson and the late John Otteson. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his sister Julie Antrim and her husband Scott of Florida, as well as numerous other relatives and friends. Steve graduated from McQueen High School and received his BS in Geography from UNR. At the time of his passing he was a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Eureka, California. Steve had a captivating personality, always happy, never down, that made it a pleasure to be around him. He was a hard-working professional person with a bright future. He will be sorely missed by all. The State Climate Office dedicates this month's Climate Summary to Steve Otteson.

John W. James
State Climatologist